

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Method for draining pseudocysts and stent delivery system for use therein. In one embodiment, the system comprises an inner catheter provided with a pair of longitudinal lumens. A guide wire is slidably disposed in one lumen, and a retractable needle is slidably disposed in the other lumen. A self-expandable stent is coaxially mounted around the inner catheter near its distal end, and an outer catheter is coaxially mounted around the inner catheter and the stent, the outer catheter being adapted for axial movement relative to the inner catheter and being dimensioned to maintain the stent in a compressed state. In use, an endoscope is intraorally introduced into a patient's stomach, and the distal end of the system is inserted therethrough. The needle is advanced to form perforations in the stomach and pseudocyst. The inner catheter is then inserted through the perforations, and the outer catheter is retracted, allowing the stent to expand and interconnect the stomach and pseudocyst. The endoscope and the rest of the delivery system are then withdrawn from the patient.